



*From the desk of*  
**Representative Jim Moeller**

*Spring 2006*



*Angel Bradshaw, daughter of Ricardo and Angela Guevara of Battle Ground, served as a Legislative Page this year. Angel is a student at Lewisville Middle School.*

**D**ear Neighbor:

**We've closed the books on the whirlwind 2006 session. I'm honored to share this report on our legislative work.**

Earlier this year, I detailed my top issues on our Olympia agenda. Today, I want to address those specific subjects, as well as a few other legislative matters that came up in the capital. We covered a lot of ground, I must say — considering that we had only two months to get it done. Don't hesitate to let me know if you'd like information beyond what's relayed on these pages.

**All the best — and please know that I respect your interest in your state government!**

**Jim Moeller**

State Representative  
49th Legislative District

693-0804 (*my local phone number*)



## ✓ **Living wills:**

*Statewide registry aims to protect citizens' dignity and health-care wishes*

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**P**eople across America and around the world watched with horror and anguish a year ago as Terri Schiavo lived her final weeks. It was heartbreaking to see what that family was going through. But the Florida woman's ultimate death did bring national attention to the importance of end-of-life planning. Many people asked themselves: "What would I do – what can I do – to prevent this nightmare from visiting my own loved ones if I ever fall into a similar state of mental and physical helplessness?"

Here in the state of Washington, I worked with an extensive group of interested individuals and organizations to write legislation strengthening our personal dignity and relieving our family's anguish. My successful measure creates a statewide registry of living wills to reflect a person's final wishes.

A living will comes into effect if we are either terminally ill or unable to speak for ourselves. Living wills are specified health-care declarations involving medical steps a person either wants *taken* or wants *not taken* at the end of life.

Citizens can send their hard-copy health-care declaration to the state Department of Health to be added to the registry in a digital format.

You can change your living will whenever you want. The registry would be published on a secure Web site — accessible only when appropriate by yourself, physicians, nurses, and health-care facilities.

A registry will improve access to advance directives and mental-health advance directives. A health-care provider should be able to consult this registry whenever a question arises about the patient's wishes in periods of incapacity.



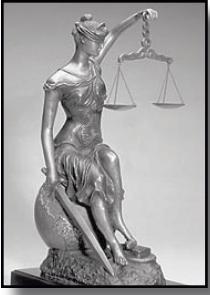
## ✓ **Safe milk:**

*Southwest Washington dairy case shows demand for stronger inspections*

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**J**ust a few months ago, the E. coli bacteria in tainted raw milk sickened 15 children and three adults in southwestern Washington. The victims drank nonpasteurized milk purchased in what is called a cow-share program. I certainly respect the reasoning of folks who don't want pasteurized milk because they maintain that it is developed with hormones and other modifications. But as we've seen, milk that is bad for some reason can be very dangerous.

We passed the Senate version of a proposal I sponsored in the House to close an inspection-loophole for cow-share dairies. The legislation adds enforcement options for the Department of Agriculture, and it also addresses concerns of legitimate small dairies. The new policy simply directs that cow-share programs must be licensed and undergo inspections to keep consumers safe.



## ✓ **True justice:**

*This is the year! Civil rights  
for each and every Washingtonian*

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**M**ark the day: Tuesday. January 31. 2006. Anti-discrimination policy discussed and approved in this year's legislative session was signed into Washington state law that day. Finally, we have established civil-rights policy to protect heretofore unprotected citizens from bigotry and prejudice. Our new law, which has been 30 years in the making, simply maintains that discrimination based on sexual orientation is – and should be – illegal and unacceptable.

Long before I was honored to be sent to Olympia, I believed that if any American is unprotected in the target of systemic bigotry — then each of us is unprotected in the unspeakable bull's eye of injustice. Terms of the new law direct that discrimination in housing, employment, financial transactions and insurance is prohibited.

The anti-discrimination bill is supported by a diverse coalition of religious, civic, humanitarian, business, and professional organizations. Some of our state's most successful companies – Boeing, Microsoft, Starbucks, and Safeco, to name a few – have already enacted similar policies. Organizations and firms such as the Urban League, Hewlett-Packard, and others teamed up with many private citizens in supporting the bill in committee-testimony.

Now, at last, in our state, we have established legal protection for a community of citizens that contributes its share of community-building, that pays its share of taxes, and that fights its share of wars. Frankly, it was way past time for this community of citizens to be assured its share of American respect, American dignity, and American protection.

In a related note, I won support for budget-money for much-needed Human Rights Commission work in Clark County.

The commission once placed an investigator in Vancouver every month, but the appropriation to do so was cut several years ago. Clark County is one of the fastest-growing communities in the entire nation. Sadly, this growth comes at a price: With the population explosion, we have seen an explosion of the very instances of injustice and discrimination that are specifically addressed by the commission!



## ✓ **Budgets:**

*Updated capital plan includes  
funding for important local projects*

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**A**n economic shot in the arm for Washington citizens and their communities — that's the bottom line in any discussion of the state's capital budget and related investment in public works. These construction projects are vital because they demonstrate commitment to providing a solid, supportive

**infrastructure for quality business and industry. Businesses that are already operating in our communities – and certainly businesses that might be looking to locate here – are very interested in our infrastructure.**

This year's revised capital budget includes these southwestern Washington projects:

- Vancouver Crime Lab, Phase 2 — \$2,940,000.
- Lewis and Clark Confluence Project — \$500,000.
- Environmental permit-streamlining project for Clark County — \$200,000.
- School for the Blind, preservation — \$200,000.
- School for the Deaf, preservation — \$200,000.
- Miracle League Baseball Field for People with Disabilities — \$57,000.

### **\* Operating, transportation budgets \***

The statewide supplemental operating budget includes \$12.5 million to cover 6,500 more children in our state's Basic Health Plan. We added \$49.9 million for mental-health programs in our community hospitals, \$4.3 million for improving programs for citizens who have developmental disabilities, \$10.1 million for rate increases for nursing homes, and \$13.8 million for improvements in children's services.

Further, while maintaining a \$941-million reserve, the new operating budget includes \$2 million in additional funding for community clinics, and \$2.1 million to help plan for a pandemic flu (such as an avian-flu outbreak). The pandemic-planning money isn't as much as I would have liked to see go toward preparing for the unthinkable. But with the federal money we're receiving (\$1.9 million), at least we can make a start at getting in shape for disaster. And I will keep working next session to further bolster disaster-preparedness funding.

Also in the supplemental budget, I won support for language to strengthen our 2-1-1 Washington Information Center (WIN) call center in southwestern Washington. This provision will help the organization buy needed software, equipment, programming, and other improvements. These WIN call centers are a clearinghouse of information and referrals.

Finally, the supplemental transportation budget includes more than \$36 million in additional investments for projects in our region. Work includes the Vancouver Rail Project, improvements at the interchange of State Route 500 and Interstate 205, a noise wall for Interstate 5 from Salmon Creek to Northeast 129th Street, retrofitting for Interstate 205 from State Route 500 to Interstate 5, and electrical-system improvements for the Interstate 5 Bridge over the Columbia River.



*For more information — or to express your comments:*

### **Representative Jim Moeller**

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